

Contents

Preface	vii
Abbreviations	xxiii

PART I

STRATEGY AND PRELIMINARIES

I	After the Marianas, What? <i>June–September 1944</i>	3
	1. Divergent Roads to Tokyo	3
	2. Admiral Halsey and the Strategic Shift	12
II	Morotai, <i>September–November 1944</i>	19
	1. The Island and the Landings, 15 September	19
	2. Rescue, Retaliation and Patrol	25
III	The Palaus and Ulithi, <i>September–November 1944</i>	30
	1. Preliminaries	30
	2. D-day at Peleliu, 15 September	36
	3. The Island Conquered, 16 September–25 November	40
	4. Angaur, 16 September–23 October	43
	5. Ulithi and Its Neighbors	47
IV	Plans and Commands for Leyte, <i>September–October 1944</i>	55
	1. American Command Structure and Plan	55
	2. The Allied Objective	61
	3. Japanese Plans and Military Situation	65

V	Leyte Logistics	74
	1. Third Fleet	74
	2. Seventh Fleet	80
VI	Formosa Air Battle, 10-20 October 1944	86
	1. Carrier Strikes on Okinawa and Formosa, 10-14 October	86
	2. "Cripdiv 1" and Concluding Strikes, 13-20 October	95
	3. Results of Formosa Air Battle	104

PART II

THE AMPHIBIOUS PHASE

VII	Preliminaries, 7-20 October 1944	113
	1. Rehearsals, Staging and Passage	113
	2. Clipping the Cat's Whiskers	117
	3. A-day minus 1, 19 October	123
	4. Main Force Enters Leyte Gulf, 20 October	127
VIII	The Main Landings, 20-29 October 1944	130
	1. The Northern Landings: A-day at Tacloban	130
	2. The General Returns; X Corps Advances	136
	3. The Southern Landings: A-day at Dulag	140
	4. Naval Support and Casualties	144
	5. Air Support and Beachhead Consolidation, 21-24 October	148

PART III

THE BATTLE FOR LEYTE GULF

24-25 October 1944

IX	Moves on the Naval Chessboard, 17-24 October 1944	159
	1. Japanese Forces and Plans	159
	2. The Fight in Palawan Passage, 23 October	169
	3. Task Force 38 Makes Contact, 24 October	174

Contents

xiii

X	The Air Battles of 24 October	177
	1. Loss of <i>Princeton</i>	177
	2. The Battle of the Sibuyan Sea	183
	3. Approach of the Three Japanese Forces	189
	4. Admiral Halsey's Decision	193
XI	The Battle of Surigao Strait, 24-25 October 1944	198
	1. Plans and Dispositions	198
	2. The Motor Torpedo Boats' Battle, 2300 October 24 to 0300 October 25	203
	3. Coward's Destroyers Attack, 0200-0315	211
	4. Right and Left Flank Destroyers Attack, 0254-0420	217
	5. The Major Gunfire Phase, 0351-0410 October 25	223
	6. Shima Fires and Falls Back, 0353-0455	230
	7. Pursuit and Mop-up, 0430 October 25-November 5	234
XII	The Battle off Samar — The Main Action, 25 October 1944	242
	1. The Three "Taffies"	242
	2. Double Surprise, 0645	245
	3. The Battle Joined, 0658-0713	250
	4. Destroyers Counterattack, 0716-0830	255
	5. "Little Wolves" Counterattack, 0750-0918	262
	6. Enemy Torpedo Attack; Last of <i>Johnston</i> , 0902-0945	271
	7. The Carriers' Running Fight, 0723-0907	276
	8. The Contribution of Taffy 2, 0658-0935	285
XIII	The Battle off Samar, Break-off and Pursuit, 25-29 October 1944	289
	1. Responsibility and Reaction	289
	2. Kurita Breaks Off and Circles, 0915-1236	296
	3. Enter Kamikaze, 0740-1130 October 25	300

	4. Exeunt Taffies, Fighting, 2000 October 25–October 29	303
	5. Air Chase of Kurita, 1100 October 25–October 27	308
	6. Rescue Operations, 25–27 October	312
XIV	The Battle off Cape Engaño, 25–26 October 1944	317
	1. Deployment and Maneuver	317
	2. The Air Strikes, 0800–1800 October 25	322
	3. Surface Maneuvers, 1115 October 25 to 0300 October 26	329
	4. Submarine Attacks, 1845 October 25 to 0900 October 26	332
XV	Naval Operations around Leyte, 26 October–25 November 1944	339
	1. Movements of Task Force 38, October 26–31	339
	2. Rough Days in Leyte Gulf, 1–2 November	343
	3. Working over Luzon, 3–6 November	346
	4. Air Power and the Ormoc Convoys, 1–11 November	349
	5. Fast Carrier Operations, 12–25 November	354
XVI	Leyte Secured, 16 November 1944–10 May 1945	361
	1. Progress Ashore in November	361
	2. Kamikazes in Leyte Gulf, 16–29 November	366
	3. Sweep and Countersweep in Ormoc Bay, 27 November–5 December	368
	4. Landings at Ormoc and Air Battle of 7 December	375
	5. Ormoc Resupply Convoys, 8–12 December	386
	6. Liberation of Leyte Completed, 15 December 1944–10 February 1945	392
XVII	Submarine Patrols, September–November 1944	398
	1. September Patrols	398
	2. <i>Tang</i> off Turnabout, 23–25 October	401

Contents

xv

3. October and November Patrols	405
4. Conclusion	412
Appendix I Task Organization for the Invasion of Leyte, 17-25 October 1944	415
Appendix II Japanese Forces in the Battle for Leyte Gulf	430
Index	433